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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonian USSR)

REPORT

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SUBJECT 1. Tartu Airfield
2. Notes on Other Estonian Airfields

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Airfield at Tartu

1. The military airfield at Tartu (N 58-24, E 26-44) is located about two kilometers north-northeast of the center of the city, by the Raadi farm.¹ The airfield was already in use by the Air Force during the period of Estonian independence; at that time the take-off direction was east-west. At present, other runways seem to have been built.

2. [redacted] the field [redacted] is probably almost square, about two kilometers to a side. The area has been enlarged repeatedly. On the latest occasion the Tartu-Narva highway was closed to traffic; it was diverted over the highway to Tallinn for a stretch of about four kilometers. [redacted] this was done in order to limit the possibility of observation of the field, rather than to enlarge the field across the highway. For a long time a military work force has been employed at the field. Considerable quantities of cement have been transported to the airfield, and the sand pit at Kabina, eight kilometers east southeast of Tartu, was completely used up at the same time. There are rumors that the Soviets have had underground hangars built at the airfield. Even if new runways have been built, they cannot be seen from outside the field. Of the installations on the airfield, only five rather small hangar-like buildings along the field's west side are visible. The assembly place for aircraft is on the field's east side.

3. During 1952 a unit of jet fighters was stationed on the field. This unit was subsequently replaced by twenty-odd, twin-engine, TU-2 type bombers. Other aircraft types are now seen there only exceptionally.

4. In July 1953, a four-engine bomber crashed on the Voru-Tartu highway near Tartu. The plane was taken apart and transported to an unknown locality, since there are no workshops for large aircraft repair in Tartu.

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[redacted] Some time before this accident, a twin-engine military aircraft had crashed in the same area. It, too, was carried off by truck.

5. No parachute jumping over the field has been observed.
6. In the streets of Tartu soldiers wearing the Air Force uniform are far more numerous than any other military personnel. No units were identified.

Miscellaneous Information on Airfields

7. A military airfield is located about 500 meters northeast of the railroad station at Voru (N 57-54, E 26-59). Troops from the Air Force, as well as the Army, are quartered at this place. Further details are lacking.
8. At Otepaa, about 35 km south-southwest of Tartu, a field for civilian ambulance aircraft has been activated. No detailed information is available on this point.
9. The airfield north-northeast of Ulemiste Lake (N 59-25, E 24-48), east of Tallinn is used exclusively by civilian aircraft and by DOSAAV. Twin-engine transport aircraft, painted white and green, are stationed at this field.

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1. [redacted] Comment: This refers to a large former estate taken over by the airfield.

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